

[18th August 1925]

- A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.
 (b) The question will be considered if and when any math moves in the matter and satisfies Government that there are sufficient grounds for excluding it from the scope of the Act.
 (c) The question will be considered when a vacancy arises.

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—“ With reference to (c), may I ask the Minister whether Government have appointed honorary assistant commissioners to assist the Board in Malabar ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Sir, I should like to have notice of the question.”

Village Panchayats.

Village panchayats in the Presidency.

* 47 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to refer to the answer to question No. 193 at the last sitting and state—
 12-15 p.m.

(a) the reasons for the marked variations in the number of village panchayats in the several districts from 1 in Malabar, 4 in South Kanara, and Guntur, 2 in Cuddapah, to 30 in Nellore, 34 in South Arcot, 80 in Anantapur and 140 in North Arcot;

(b) whether the Government have laid down instructions with a view to Collectors and other officers concerned encouraging the formation of village panchayats;

(c) what steps Government have taken or contemplate with a view to ensuring a more or less uniform rate of progress in the growth of village panchayat system; and

(d) how many of the village panchayats have been entrusted with the work of looking after forests and which of them?

A.—(a) The variations are in general due to the varying degrees of enthusiasm or apathy displayed by presidents of taluk boards, the honorary organizers and the ryots. The large number in the Anantapur district is due to the specially hard work done by the President, Anantapur Taluk Board, and that in North Arcot to the intensive campaign carried out in the Polur taluk by a band of honorary organizers under the direction of a Chief Honorary Organizer.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) The Government would leave the question to the Registrar-General of Panchayats, his personal assistant and his band of honorary organizers. The main duty of the Registrar-General is to organize and supervise panchayats.

(d) Only one—the Karkal village panchayat in the South Kanara district.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ May I know whether the Registrar-General of Panchayats is taking sufficient interest in the matter ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ The only answer I can give is that he has done his level best.”

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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ Will the Government be pleased to state why only one village panchayat in the South Kanara district has been entrusted with the work of looking after forests ? ”

Education.

Educational grant to schools in Ramnad district.

*48 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Provincial grant for education for schools in the Ramnad district has been reduced this year ; and

(b) if so, whether there has been proportionate distribution of grants to schools in Ramnad district ?

A.—(a) The provision made in the budget estimate for 1925-26 for the payment of teaching grants to aided elementary schools has not yet been distributed among the several District Educational Councils. The amount placed at the disposal of the District Educational Council, Ramnad, for the payment of teaching grants in the year 1924-25 was Rs. 1,34,268 as against Rs. 1,18,082 in 1923-24.

(b) Does not arise.

Fostering of new University centres.

*49 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) by what means under the operation of the Madras University Act new University centres are fostered ;

(b) what special grant have Government sanctioned to the colleges at Trichinopoly and Mangalore with a view to foster an embryo university life in them ;

(c) whether there is any town in the Andhra country with more colleges and with more scholars in the college department than there are at Trichinopoly or Mangalore ;

(d) if the answer to the last question is in the negative, what justification there is for the Andhra country to have a separate University in preference to Trichinopoly or Mangalore ; and

(e) what form the Andhra University will take—(i) whether it will be on the model of the present Madras University Act, or (ii) on the model of the recent University Act superseded by the present Act ?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to sections 27 (1) (f) and 53 of the Madras University Act (1923) and the Preamble to the Act.

(b) The colleges referred to are given the usual grants with reference to the provisions of the Grant-in-Aid Code.

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Subsidiary table No. 1 (a) appended to Volume II of the Report on Public Instruction for 1923-24.

(d) & (e) The information may be gathered from the Andhra University Bill and the Statement of Objects and Reasons which will be published shortly.